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that task is something that cannot be accomplished except by scientific processes, by the study of comparative jurisprudence, by the application of minds of the highest order in the most painstaking and practical way. In the adaptation of these new ideas common to all free people, the best minds of every people should assist every other people and receive assistance from every other people. The study of comparative jurisprudence, apparently dry, purely scientific, is as important to the well being of the citizen in the streets of Mexico or Washington as those scientific observations and calculations which seem to be purely abstract have proved to be to the mariner on the ocean or to the engineer of great works of construction.

### The Greatest Moral Question of the Century.

The *Broadway Tabernacle Tidings*, the organ of the church in New York of which Dr. Charles E. Jefferson is pastor, had in its January issue a timely and trenchant criticism of the position of the *Outlook* on the subject of our country's armaments. This criticism seems to us to be quite justified by the extraordinary position which the *Outlook* has taken in this matter, — a position which is totally incompatible with the American principle that *the people are the rulers of this nation*, and that the President and Congress are only their servants. If intelligent individuals and great papers like the *Outlook* are to have nothing to do with the determination of the national policy on the subject of increase or decrease of armaments, then we are far along toward the substitution of monarchical for democratic government. The criticism is as follows:

"If the *Outlook* does not wish to lose its prestige for leadership in the realm of moral thought and action, it cannot afford to indulge often in such editorials as the recent one in which it replied to certain strictures of the Rev. Dr. Dole of Massachusetts on the attitude of the *Outlook* to the naval policy of our government. Dr. Dole is a clear thinker and uses English with discrimination and illuminating energy, and the editors of the *Outlook* cut a sorry figure in comparison with him whenever they discuss the subject of armaments. Among other things Dr. Dole said: 'The *Outlook* stands for the ideal things, it is supposed to believe in the application of Christian principles in the world. It holds that such principles may be trusted. Why, then, does the *Outlook* care to go over to the side of the men who distrust both God and man and help keep the battleships menacing the world?' To which the editors of the *Outlook* reply: 'Would Mr. Dole abolish the police force of Boston? If his household were attacked by assassins in the middle of the night, would he refrain from using every known electrical device at his hand for calling up the police patrol to come with the utmost military precision to protect the household?'

"This is saddening! We expect puerilities in some papers, but not in the *Outlook*. The old fallacy that our huge and growing navy is only a police force has been exploded a thousand times, and the man is belated who makes use of it. If Mr. Metcalf asks for sixty-nine

millions more for new ships, we are not to answer all criticisms by asking, 'Would you disband the police force?' When the President asks for four new battleships instead of one, and says, 'plenty of torpedo boats and destroyers should be built,' we are all to keep still or have our ears boxed with the reminder that when assassins are coming we all call for the policeman!

"In regard to the President's last astounding recommendation the *Outlook* says: 'On the question whether we ought to add four battleships to our navy this year the *Outlook* has no opinion to express.' Of course not. Because the *Outlook* has abdicated its position as leader of high and independent opinion. It believes that this matter should be left to be determined for us by the Administration and Congress. How strange all this sounds in the *Outlook*, the very paper which has in its high moments always refused to bow to the decision of councils in church and the conclusions of politicians in state, calling the most exalted heads and the most august tribunals to a higher judgment seat!

"The *Broadway Tabernacle Pulpit* protests against the inexcusable and mischievous squandering of our national treasure on the further development of the enginery of slaughter. It is to be hoped that the American church will not be content to remain noncommittal or apologetic when face to face with the greatest moral question of the century."

### New Books.

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DIPLOMACY OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR. By Prof. Amos S. Hershey. New York: The Macmillan Co. Cloth, 394 pages.

This book uses the history of the contest between Russia and Japan to illustrate and bring up to date the subject of international law. The writer makes frequent use of Asakawa's "Russo-Japanese Conflict," of diplomatic correspondence and press dispatches as sources of information.

One who has read Professor Lawrence on "War and Neutrality in the Far East" will find the author following in Lawrence's steps with enthusiasm. While Professor Hershey does not write in such a clear and condensed style as Professor Lawrence, he goes into his subject more exhaustively than the famous British writer, and gives his reader satisfaction on the minor as well as the greater legal questions that arose in the struggle. He has a complete statement of the causes which led to the war, and, while he writes as an impartial historian, shows that the Japanese, instead of being a treacherous foe, as was charged by the Czar in connection with their sudden attack on the Russian fleet without formal declaration, acted in accordance with a notice previously given to St. Petersburg as to their imperative duty to defend themselves when the negotiations between the two governments were broken off.

Contrary to the opinion which prevails in many quarters, Professor Hershey also shows that the American government was in spirit neutral in its relations to both combatants, although many American citizens expressed sympathy for Japan.

Among the questions discussed in the book are the legal limits within which wireless telegraphy may be used by war correspondents, the violation of the ocean

mails by belligerents intent upon searching for hostile cargoes or dispatches, the escape from their moorings of dangerous submarine mines into the path of innocent commerce on the high seas, the seizure and destruction of neutral prizes by cruisers, and the use made by them of neutral ports as a basis of operations after taking on supplies of coal.

There is an interesting chapter on contraband of war, in which the rules of the two powers are compared, to the advantage of Japan. As to coal, railway material, provisions, and a number of articles which enter into the daily life of non-combatants, or which keep up the industries on which they depend, Japan followed the custom of England and America by distinguishing between what was absolutely and what conditionally contraband, according as it was to be used for private or war purposes. Russia made such articles absolutely contraband, interfered unreasonably with commerce, finally became oppressive, and had to make amends.

Although charges and counter-charges were made on both sides as to the violation of the Red Cross rules, most of the accusations proved either to be unfounded or capable of satisfactory explanation as unavoidable misunderstandings. Russian and Japanese surgeons and nurses treated friend and foe alike after a battle. The dead were respected and prisoners more considerately treated than in almost any other war. The author takes up the investigation of the accidental firing by the Russian fleet upon the Hull fishermen, and the friendly mediation of President Roosevelt, which brought the war to an end. There is also a full account of the treaty of Portsmouth.

While the book of necessity deals with the amelioration of the conditions of war after it has begun, its general effect upon the reader is to make him feel that after all so-called war regulations are respected, and, though not so desirable as preventive measures, are practical. The book in this respect vindicates the work of the first Hague Conference and helps one to understand reasons for the changes that have been made by the second Conference. Its effect is to give us new hope in the peace movement through the improvement of international law. More than ever should the nations rely for justice and security not on their armies and navies, but on the wise and beneficial agreements made and to be made at The Hague.

**ERASMUS AGAINST WAR.** With an introduction by J. W. Mackail. Boston: The Merrymount Press. Price, \$6.00.

This is the second volume in the Humanists' Library, edited by Lewis Einstein, and printed at the Merrymount Press, under the supervision of D. B. Updike. The purpose of the Humanists' Library is to print, in a form as nearly as possible like the books made in the early days of the printer's art, "a series of books, each one of which shall be characteristic of some aspect of the culture which flourished in Western Europe during the period of the Renaissance." This effort to reproduce the elegant style of printing of those early days is what makes the price so high. It is probable that no more beautifully printed book ever came from a Boston house than this "Erasmus Against War," which we wish everybody had the money, as some do have the money, to buy.

Erasmus's views on war are well known to all of the older peace workers. They were frequently published and discussed sixty years ago, and had large influence in the early development of the peace movement. But the present generation of workers knows little of them. It is therefore a very great service to the younger students of the history of the movement to have this brief but most important treatise of Erasmus put at their disposal. Mr. Mackail's introduction will enable readers to understand and appreciate much more easily and fully the immense importance of Erasmus's services, in that early and difficult time, to the great and now triumphing cause of world peace.

**THE RUSSO-JAPANESE CONFLICT, ITS CAUSES AND ISSUES.** By K. Asakawa, Ph. D., with an introduction by Prof. Frederick Wells Williams. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 383 pages. Price, \$2.00 net. Postage, 16 cents.

This work is, and is likely to remain, a valuable statement of the causes that led to the war between Russia and Japan. It is written by a Japanese lecturer at Dartmouth College and appears to be just what the author tries to make it, a fair presentation of the case. The main text of the book is preceded by two introductions: one of them by Professor Williams of Yale, and the other by the author himself. The latter introduction is full of interesting detail of use to other writers, containing information on the economic and political questions involved in the struggle. Among the chapters that follow are the "Retrocession of the Liao-Tung Peninsula," the "Cassini Convention" and the "Railway Agreement," "Port Arthur and Talien-Wan," "The Occupation of Manchuria," "The Anglo-Japanese Agreement," "The Convention of Evacuation," etc.

A full account of the diplomatic struggle between the Russian and Japanese diplomatists over the status of Korea and their respective claims in it is given, together with the negotiations which led to the outbreak of the war, and the declarations of war and neutrality issued by Russia and Japan. The book is illustrated with a map of the disputed territory and pictures of some of the great characters in the drama.

**AS THE HAGUE ORDAINS.** Journal of a Russian Prisoner's Wife in Japan. New York: Henry Holt & Company.

The title of this book gives in advance little clue to its contents. It is only toward the end, where the author brings out in ever clearer light the manner in which the Japanese military officials scrupulously observed in their treatment of the Russian prisoners the rules of the Hague Convention on the laws of war, that the appropriateness of the words "As The Hague Ordains" becomes apparent. The book is a most readable one, full of life and movement. It is really a work of art, difficult as it is to make a work of art out of battles, and hospitals, and broken heads, and limping legs, and bandages and antiseptics. The author is evidently a lady of extraordinary cleverness, of much culture, insight into character, and admirable tact, as well as unfailing courage. The daily installments of her journal throw much light on the